

Town of Primrose
Comprehensive Planning Steering Committee
March 9, 2009

Meeting called to order by Dein at 7:35

Attending: Dein, Garfoot, Gibson, Haack, Hayward, D. Judd, J. Judd

1. Motion made by Hayward, seconded by Garfoot, to approve the minutes of February 16, 2009 with the following revision: in item k, "Town Square" should be changed to "Town Land Use Plan". Motion carried 7-0.

2. Public Comment:

(a) The history of the Township has changed over time. Cheese factories are gone, schools are now all in cities or villages, and people should accept and make room for changes regarding housing. Primrose will be part of the metropolitan area of Madison.

(b) The Steering Committee emails are not available.

(c) The Public Participation plan was not published in the newspaper.

(d) Steering Committee members seem to have access to information that links survey numbers with peoples' names. The surveys were supposed to be anonymous.

(e) In the Steering Committee meetings there should be an open discussion, not questions asked at one time and answered a month later.

(f) Effort should be made to guarantee the splits of long term land-owners. There should be something in the plan to help out long term land-owners.

(g) If the aim of the Town is keep long term farming, Hayward should not be opposed to having big hog farms.

(h) The survey question about 'dark night skies' is so far out there. I hope no policy will be based on that.

(i) If people want to preserve view-scape, they should buy the land around them.

(j) Lease holders should be included in official notification of meetings, and this should be done before the discussion on minerals and extraction.

(k) Gibson said at the last meeting that there were probably only three renters in the township. That is an error. I know of at least 43 in my area.

(l) Non-resident land owners who live out of state should have been surveyed because many have jobs out of state but will eventually move back.

(m) When will the O'Connor/Connors amendment to the Land Use Plan be discussed?

(n) Any amendment to the Public Participation Plan must be approved by the Town Board.

(o) Draft Elements are not being provided before they are presented.

(p) Put an agenda item on the Agenda, so the questions can be answered.

(q) Why can't the questions be answered when they are asked?

Public comment closed.

3. Status of the Survey:

Standing reported that the surveys were all out, and that the County would begin collating and compiling the survey, checking them against the numbers assigned to see that we don't get duplicates and that no one not sent the survey is returning the survey. The surveys are anonymous. No Steering Committee member or anyone else will have access to a matching of names with the assigned number on the survey. Surveys will continue to be accepted up until the compiling is completed, which is at least two weeks away.

Standing addressed comment (d) in tonight's Public comment section.

4. Comprehensive Planning development process:

(i) Both the Issues and Opportunity and the Transportation Elements will be put on hold until after we get the Survey Results, and to allow for further discussion on the Town Square.

(ii) Utilities and Community Facilities:

Standing gave a presentation which presented material on such subjects as 'Utilities and Infrastructure', school districts, fire and EMS districts, sheriff, etc.

(iii) Public Comment:

1. Improve the cell service coverage in the Town of Primrose.
2. Look at pre-planning and pre-approving new cell tower locations.
3. Improve internet service in the town. Explore potential and funding opportunities for community Wi-Fi if private service is not available.
4. Don't put impediments in the way of green energy projects.
5. Look at federal, state and county funding to assist in community facility, utility and infrastructure development.
6. Look at potential for wind power in town.
7. Make sure air/odor/dust emissions standards don't affect farming operations.
8. Consider a manure digester location in the town. Is this something the town would want?
9. Support solar and geothermal, external wood-burning stoves, and other alternative heat or cooling sources. Make sure land use plans support alternative energy development.

(iv) It was decided that we would next begin work on the Economic Development Element, and also begin looking at the parts of comprehensive planning that pertain to Cultural Resources and Mineral Extraction. Official notice will be given to lease holders to let them know that we will be discussing Mineral Extraction. (See comment (j) above).

5. Committee policies and procedures:

(i) Motion made by Hayward, seconded to Haack, that the Commission delegate to the Chair of the Steering Committee (or the vice-chair in the Chair's absence) the authority to make decisions regarding the implementation of Committee decisions." Motion carried 6/0.

(ii) Addressing Questions and Comments from the Feb. 16th and March 9th meeting:

— Regarding questions about Public Input and Discussion (questions or comments (f) Feb. 16th and (e), (p), and (q) of March 9th). Dein said that two things should be distinguished. The first is Public Participation, and there multiple ways to participate in the Comprehensive Planning Process. But, secondly, there are the Steering Committee Meetings, which are business meetings intended to get work done. We have allowed a Public Comment component in all of these meetings, though we are not required to do so. And we have tried to answer most of the questions asked, although, again, we are not required to do so. Several members thought that to have a back and forth discussion of the issues would take too long and divert us from getting work done. But there will be an effort to address most questions at the same meeting at which they were asked, if the meeting has not already gone too late. There will be an item put on the agenda under which questions can be answered.

—Regarding question (j) on Feb. 16, Standing has said that the dates of the County contract can be extended.

—Regarding question (i) on Feb. 16, the motion made on Nov. 17 to strike a sentence in the Public Participation Plan will be put on the Town Board's agenda.

—Regarding question (k) on Feb. 16 and (m) on March 9, we don't know when we will begin discussion of the Land Use Element and of the Connors/O'Connors amendment. That will depend upon when other elements are finished, and when the modeling is done.

—Regarding question (l) on Feb. 16 and (o) of March 9, Draft elements are put on the Website when we have them. Sometimes we don't have them until the night of the meeting, but no Element is approved then, they are works in progress.

— Regarding question (m) and (q) on Feb. 16 and (b) on March 9, the Steering Committee has adopted a policy to have emails between Steering Committee member available by request only in order to save the Clerk the time of posting these emails. These emails are for the purpose of setting meeting times, sending drafts of Elements, etc., not for discussion or decision.

—Regarding question (o) and (r) on Feb. 16, the purpose of the Town Square is to allow opportunity for public input. All postings on the Town Square are available for all to see on the Website.

—Regarding question (p) on Feb. 16, anyone can have a house party, they can invite who they want, the parties are private parties, and the host need not give any official notice that they are occurring unless a quorum of the Town Board or Planning Commission are present. We know of no house parties that have been given.

—Regarding comment (d) on March 9, no Steering Committee member has access to the list of names that have been assigned numbers for the survey. The surveys are anonymous.

6. The next meeting time was scheduled for March 23rd.

Motion to adjourn made by Haack, seconded by Judd. Motion carried 6-0.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Martha Gibson